

/State Joint Board on Universal Service Docket 96-45

The Federal Communications Commission

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

In the process for implementing the proposed FCC flat fee for landline and wireless phone service, there is a need for consideration of financial impact on People with disabilities.

As a person with a disability, I am providing input on the proposed FCC flat tax hike. It will hurt those least able to afford it -- individuals with disabilities. Please make certain that there is full consideration of the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act before implementing a flat tax on phone services which are uniquely needed by those with disabilities.

If I must beg than I beg you you to stop the FCC from approving the new "flat fee" plan. We who are at the bottom of the societal voices are straining to make every penny count.

Those who say it's just a small fee do not realize that we are effected by so many other service providers in different catagories who also raise fees all saying it's only a small fee. Please support Fair Share Plan. I live alone and I am on a strict budget for my meager Social Security Disability and need to have access to home phone service and wireless service for my only contact with the outside world. Our needs as low-volume residential customers would bear the same universal service fund burden as a high-volume residential or business customers.

This may be the straw that broke the camel's back for disabled customers who need pay-as-you-go wireless services. For many it is the only affordable method reserved for use only in case of urgent need. Whether we are in need of calling emergency roadside car service or at home fallen on the floor, how will we contact help? What the FCC and other agencies or private vendors or utilities consider to be minor, in total it is beyond our extremely limited social security disability (SSDI) insurance payments.

I use my wireless phone for safety, security and emergancies. I don't want to pay what rightly should be paid by big business. With the FCC flat rate, they will pay less than their fair share. I urge you to reject the proposal to move the USF collection system to a flat-fee.

Keep Phone Fees affordable for indiviuals with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Thomas Canaday

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